Primary schools brought under operation black-board scheme

*234. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of primary schools State-wise and the number of schools which have been brought under Operation Black-Board Scheme and Working accordingly, in each State and Union Territory during the last three years and during the current year so far and also what is the expenditure incurred during each year on this account; and

(b) the estimated time-schedule by when Operation Black-Board would have covered all the primary schools in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The Scheme of Operation Blackboard was formulated in 1987-88. During 1987-88 and 1988-89 a total of 2,53,279 primary schools have been covered and Central assistance of Rs. 246.34 crores has been released to States and Union Territories. Statewise details of number of schools covered and amount released are given in the Annexure (See Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 110)

During 1989-90 so far funds have not been released for new projects. The full amount sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh in 1989-90 could not be released owing to budgetary constraints. Hence the following amounts have been released in the current financial year to these States in fulfilment to last year's sanction.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Andhra Pradesh . . .	408.77
Karnataka	146.08
Orissa	296.86
Uttar Pradesh . . .	381.75

In addition an amount of Rs. 32.39 lakhs sanctioned to Delhi in 1987-88, which lapsed due to non-drawal, was re-sanctioned. Thus a total amount of Rs. 1266.85 lakhs has been spent in the current financial year.

(b) Depending on the allocation of resources, it is expected that all primary schools would be covered in the next one or two years.

Growing demand for use of helicopters by Pawan Hans Limited

*235. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for use of helicopters by Pawan Hans Limited is growing and the corporation is not able to meet its demand; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The Pawan Hans Ltd. has been able to meet the growing volume of demand for helicopter service from the Oil Sector. The company has also plans to meet additional demand, if any, from this sector by redeploying its own fleet or resorting to helicopter leasing to the extent considered necessary.

Conversion of Manmad-Adilabad rail link from metre-gauge to broad-gauge

*236. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the conversion of Manmad-Adilabad rail link from metre-gauge to broad-gauge by raising debentures from public;

(b) whether any metre-gauge section in Karnataka is also under consideration for conversion to broad-gauge by raising debentures; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Visit of the curators of world museums to Indian museums

*237. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some senior curators of some of the well known museums of the world visited Indian museums recently;

(b) if so, what is their impression on conditions of Indian museums, method of their upkeep, manner of display of art objects etc; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government on their observations?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The impression as reported appears to indicate that the conditions are pitiable, museums are in shambles, lack air-conditioning and display is unsatisfactory.

(c) The observations expressed about museums in India are highly exaggerated.

India's initiative for long term settlement of Afghanistan problem

*238. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any initiative with other countries for a long term settlement of the Afghanistan problem; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Government have been in touch with all concerned including all sections of Afghan opinion. Government have consistently called for strict implementation of the Geneva accords by all signatories as an essential step in seeking a political solution based on existing realities and ensuring the sovereignty, integrity, non-aligned status and independence of Afghanistan.

Common core for development of a National curricular framework for school stage

*239. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 234 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th May, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training had developed a National Curricular Framework for School stage which contains a common core having the content essential to nurture national identity;

(b) if so, what are these components of the common core and also the curriculum guidelines; and

(c) whether the States have been urged to use NCERT's curriculum guidelines, syllabi and text-books for different stages of school education; if so, what has been the response till date thereto state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Common core for development of a National curricular framework for school stage

The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986 envisages a National system of education based on a national curricular framework which contains a common core alongwith other components that are flexible.